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General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session

Official Records

First Committee
1st meeting
Tuesday, 5 September 2000, 4.25 p.m.
New York

Temporary Chairman: Mr. Holkeri ..... (Finland, President of the General Assembly)

The meeting was called to order at 4.25 p.m.

Election of the Chairman of the First Committee

The Temporary Chairman: Rule 103 of the rules of procedure, as amended by Assembly resolution 52/163 of 15 December 1997, provides that each Main Committee shall elect a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. These officers shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence. The elections shall be held by secret ballot unless the Committee decides otherwise in an election where only one candidate is standing. The nomination of each candidate shall be limited to one speaker, after which the Committee shall immediately proceed to the election.

Furthermore, rule 110 of the rules of procedure provides that congratulations to the officers of a Main Committee shall not be expressed except by the Chairman of the previous session — or, in his absence, by a member of his delegation — after all the officers of the Committee have been elected.

This meeting has been convened for the election of the Chairman of the First Committee. Are there any nominations?

Mr. González (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, allow me, on behalf of the Chilean delegation, to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

As Chairman of the First Committee, I have the honour to nominate the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations at Geneva, Ambassador U Mya Than, for the chairmanship of the fifty-fifth session of the First Committee. I would like to highlight Ambassador U Mya Than's career at the United Nations since 1984 and, in particular, his work in the field of international security and disarmament.

In that regard, Ambassador U Mya Than acted as the Deputy Representative of his country to the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva from 1985 to 1990 and from 1992 to 1996. Over the course of those years he acquired a mastery over disarmament and international security issues. In 1999, his Government appointed him its Permanent Representative to Geneva.

I also wish to underscore Ambassador U Mya Than's prominent role in introducing a multilateral dimension in the field of nuclear disarmament. In 1995, he introduced a draft resolution on nuclear disarmament at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly. As we all know, that resolution emphasizes the multilateral dimension of nuclear disarmament and calls for the establishment of an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament within the Conference on Disarmament. During the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1997

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Ambassador U Mya Than proposed a draft protocol on security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States.

Ambassador U Mya Than's professional career, which I have described briefly, both justify and substantiate his election to the chairmanship of the First Committee. I hope his nomination will be approved by consensus.

The Temporary Chairman: Mr. U Mya Than of Myanmar has been nominated by the representative of Chile. Since only one candidate has been nominated, I propose that under rule 103 the Committee decide not to hold a secret ballot.

It was so decided.

The Temporary Chairman: I therefore declare Mr. U Mya Than of Myanmar elected Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.